Page 16, line 28, to page 17, line 9, please amend the paragraph, as follows:

A mass counter balance or countermass device is shown in Fig. 8. In this embodiment, magnet track **46** is flexibly mounted using a flexure or other type of bearing to frame **22**, allowing for a small movement of the magnet track relative to frame **22**. The magnet track is connected to a countermass **208**, through rod **207** and attachment block **206**. Countermass **208** is attached to ground **211** using a bearing **209**. If the countermass is outside the stage vacuum chamber (not shown), then seal **212** is used to prevent leakage of air into the vacuum chamber. A small motor **210** or spring can be used to keep the countermass within its normal operating range. A similar countermass is provided for each of the magnet tracks **46**, **76** so that substantially all reaction forces are absorbed and reduced. The countermass system provides superior reaction force canceling compared to the reaction frame, but at a higher cost, size and complexity.

Amendments to the Claims:

Please amend claims 35 and 36, as follows:

35. (Amended) The method of claim 33, wherein actuating the X-direction linear motor to position the support platform in the X-direction occurs as the article is not being exposed.

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